

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A drum-type washing machine having a self-balancing outer tub assembly, the outer tub assembly comprising:

a front outer tub having an open front and rear, the front outer tub comprising a first material and a second material different from the first material, wherein the second material is ~~combined~~ blended with the first material; and

a rear outer tub having a closed end and an open end coupled to said front outer tub, wherein said front outer tub has a specific gravity higher than that of said rear outer tub.

2. (Previously Presented) The drum-type washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first material of said front outer tub is a polymer and the second material is a metal powder.

3. (Original) The drum-type washing machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein the metal powder is iron-based.

4. (Original) The drum-type washing machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein the metal powder is aluminum-based.

5. (Original) The drum-type washing machine as claimed in claim 2, further comprising at least one insert member integrally formed with said front outer tub by an insert injection molding process, wherein said at least one insert member has a specific gravity higher than that of the polymer.

6. (Previously Presented) The drum-type washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first material of said front outer tub is a polymer and the second material is an inorganic substance.

7. (Original) The drum-type washing machine as claimed in claim 6, wherein the inorganic substance is one selected from the group consisting of talc, CaCO_3 , and silicon.

8. (Original) The drum-type washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein said front and rear outer tubs are formed by injection molding.

9. (Original) The drum-type washing machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one middle outer tub having an open front and rear, said at least one middle outer tub being coupled between said front and rear outer tubs.

10. (Original) The drum-type washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein said front and rear outer tubs are integrally formed as one body.

11. (Currently Amended) A drum-type washing machine having a self-balancing outer tub assembly, the outer tub assembly comprising:

a front outer tub having an open front and rear, the front outer tub comprising a first material and a second material different from the first material, wherein the second material is ~~combined~~ blended with the first material; and

a rear outer tub having a closed end and an open end coupled to said front outer tub, wherein said front outer tub has a thickness greater than that of said rear outer tub.

12. (Previously Presented) The drum-type washing machine as claimed in claim 11, wherein the first material of said front outer tub is a polymer and the second material is a metal powder.

13. (Original) The drum-type washing machine as claimed in claim 12, wherein the metal powder is iron-based.

14. (Original) The drum-type washing machine as claimed in claim 12, wherein the metal powder is aluminum-based.

15. (Original) The drum-type washing machine as claimed in claim 12, further comprising at least one insert member integrally formed with said front outer tub by an insert injection molding process, wherein said at least one insert member has a specific gravity higher than that of the polymer.

16. (Previously Presented) The drum-type washing machine as claimed in claim 11, wherein the first material of said front outer tub is a polymer and the second material is an inorganic substance.

17. (Original) The drum-type washing machine as claimed in claim 16, wherein the inorganic substance is one selected from the group consisting of talc, CaCO_3 , and silicon.

18. (Original) The drum-type washing machine as claimed in claim 11, wherein said front and rear outer tubs are formed by injection molding.

19. (Original) The drum-type washing machine as claimed in claim 11, further comprising at least one middle outer tub having an open front and rear, said at least one middle outer tub being coupled between said front and rear outer tubs.

20. (Original) The drum-type washing machine as claimed in claim 11, wherein said front and rear outer tubs are integrally formed as one body.